

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the Official Action of May 7, 2007. A telephone call to the examiner to discuss the objection to the Abstract on April 30, 2007 is acknowledged. By this response, it is submitted that all remaining claims are prima facie allowable.

Claim to Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of the acknowledgement of the claim to priority and receipt of the certified copies of the supporting document.

Drawing

It is noted that the drawings as filed are accepted.

Information Disclosure Statements

The Action acknowledged consideration of the IDS papers submitted on July 16, 2004 and July 30, 2004, and returned the withdrawn IDS PTO-SB/08 Form, an appropriate action in view of the withdrawing submission of July 6, 2004. All is thus in order.

Objection to the Abstract

The Action contained a paragraph objecting to the specification because “the abstract is less than 150 words” (emphasis added). It seems to the undersigned that the current abstract contains more than 150 words so that the objection as phrased is respectfully traversed. In that the examiner had relied on MPEP §608.01(b), perhaps the examiner meant to object to the length of the abstract as containing more than 150 words. Thus, a shortened abstract submitted to be in compliance with the cited rule but not responsive to the stated objection is provided.

If additional matters remain, the examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve this issue quickly and without filing an additional paper.

Claims

Claims 1 to 8 were pending in this application as filed. Claims 2 and 4 to 8 were indicated to be allowable, while claims 1 and 3 were rejected as being anticipated by the patent to Fukuma, No. 4,796,945. Without indicating agreement with or acquiescence in this position, the pending claims are tailored to accept the allowable subject matter.

Specifically, claim 1 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and its subject matter migrated to allowable claim 2 thus making amended claim 2 prima facie allowable. Claim 3 is amended to depend on allowable claim 2 in that it previously depended from claim 1. Similarly, the subject matter of claim 1 was also migrated to both of the allowable claims 4 and 8, thus making amended claims 4 and 8 allowable. Dependent claims 5 to 7 are dependent on or through amended claim 4 and are thus also allowable.

Claim 1 is canceled. Claims 2 to 8 are each allowable, so early notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. WEN-0031 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: May 3, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By

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